

APPOINTMENT OF A LEADER FOR THE ARMY BAND

FEBRUARY 20, 1925.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union and ordered to be printed

Mr. HILL of Alabama, from the Committee on Military Affairs, submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany S. 3824]

The Committee on Military Affairs, to which was reported the bill S. 3824, having considered the same, report thereon with the recommendation that it do pass.

A similar bill, H. R. 11253, was reported by your committee on February 4 of this year. The report made on that measure gives all the information submitted on the proposed legislation, and that report is therefore made a part of this report, as follows:

This is a measure to place the leader of the Army Band on an equality with the leaders of the Marine Band and the Navy Band as regards pay and allowances. Each of the three bands is now recognized as being on an equality as being the representative band, respectively, of the Army, Marine Corps, and Navy. Legislation recently passed by the House places on an equality as regards pay and allowances the leaders of the Marine Band and the Navy Band. It is proposed in this bill to give the same recognition as regards pay and allowances to the leader of the Army Band.

At present there are 65 men in the Marine Band, 67 men in the Navy Band, and 90 men in the Army Band. Under the act of August 29, 1916, the leader of the Marine Band is entitled to the pay of a captain in the Marine Corps. Since July 1, 1922, the Comptroller General has ruled that the pay and allowances of this leader are confined to those of a captain in the third pay period (having reference to the service pay act of 1922). Legislation passed by the House provides that the leader of the Navy Band shall receive the pay and allowances of a lieutenant in the Navy. This bill will give the leader of the Army Band the pay and allowances of a captain in the Army. This will provide a minimum pay of \$200 per month to each leader and a maximum pay of \$300 per month, according to information furnished your committee. The pay of the leader of the Army Band at present is a minimum of \$148 and a maximum of \$185.

For the information of the House a short history of the Army Band, as well as the present leader, is made a part of this report.

During the World War there were frequent occasions when the troops of the allied nations were called upon to pass in review before the various commanding officers. This brought to General Pershing's notice that the American forces

had no band to compare with those of other nations. The further fact was brought to the notice of the commanding officers at that time that the music of the bands was one of the very important elements in reviving the spirit of the war-worn veterans and those who were wounded in battle. This gave rise to the idea of a United States Army band that could hold its own with any band. Immediately upon becoming Chief of Staff of the Army of the United States General Pershing took steps to bring about the organization of such a band. The orders were issued, and 90 men were gathered in Washington for the purpose of organizing the Army Band. A board of officers and warrant officers was appointed to report upon the efficiency of the applicants for the position of leader. The board, having gone over the matter carefully, selected Warrant Officer William J. Stannard as the band leader, and he was accordingly detailed for that duty, where he has continued to the present. It is conceded that very largely through his efforts as leader the Army Band has taken its place in the very forefront of musical organizations, and he has placed the Army Band on an equality with the best there is.

The present band leader entered the Army as a musician when 18 years of age. He has been a student of music for 24 years. He has studied under eminent musicians, such as C. L. Staats, of the Boston Symphony Orchestra; Mr. Norrito, soloist with Sousa's Band for a great many years; Mr. Le Roy, of the La Garde Republique Band of France; and Mr. Levy, of the Russian Symphony Orchestra. In 1911 he won a scholarship to the Institute of Musical Art, under Walter Damrosch, graduating after completing the four years' course in two years.

Because of the high state of efficiency to which the Army Band has attained, your committee feels favorable action on this measure would be for the best interest of the service.

The measure was introduced at the request of the War Department, and the letter of the Secretary of War is made a part of this report, as follows:

DECEMBER 30, 1924.

HON. JOHN C. MCKENZIE,
*Acting Chairman Committee on Military Affairs,
House of Representatives.*

MY DEAR MR. MCKENZIE: I desire to submit for the favorable consideration of your committee the draft of a bill which proposes, in the interest of efficiency of the Military Establishment and in justice to a member thereof, to change the status of the leader of the Army Band.

The character of service of the Army Band in this our Nation's Capital is well known to you. That such an organization would have a valuable part to play in other than peaceful times is evidenced by the services of its forerunner, the band at general headquarters during the World War.

The Marine Band and the Navy Band share honors with, and perform service similar, to the Army Band. There is no great difference in size or importance between any two of these bands.

The leader of the Marine Band under the law (39 Stat. 609) receives the pay and allowances of a captain in the Marine Corps.

H. R. 2688, Sixty-eighth Congress, first session, favorably reported by the House Committee on Naval Affairs in Report No. 31, proposes that hereafter the leader of the United States Navy Band shall receive the pay and allowances of a lieutenant in the Navy.

Existing laws allow for the Army Band a warrant officer band leader, who serves without any additional pay or compensation.

The Acting Inspector General in forwarding his report of inspection of the Army Band on February 15, 1924, especially noted its high state of efficiency and recommended that favorable consideration be given the matter of more fully compensating the band leader.

In view of the above, legislation as follows providing further recognition for the warrant officer band leader of the Army Band, without increasing the number of officers or warrant officers now authorized by law, is requested:

[A BILL To provide for the appointment of a leader of the Army band]

"Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Secretary of War is hereby authorized to appoint a warrant officer of the Regular Army leader of the Army Band, who, while holding such appointment, shall receive, in lieu of any and all pay and allowances as warrant officer, the base pay and the allowances of a captain

of the Regular Army in the third pay period and shall be entitled to longevity pay provided for an officer for each three years of service under such appointment plus any previous active commissioned service under a Federal appointment which the appointee may have had, but shall not be entitled to pass to a higher pay period. The leader of the Army Band may be relieved from his appointment as such and returned to his former status at the discretion of the Secretary of War. Upon retirement he shall be retired as a warrant officer and shall receive the retired pay to which he would have been entitled had he not been appointed and received the pay and allowances of leader of the Army Band: *Provided*, That no back pay or allowances shall be allowed to the leader of the Army Band by reason of the passage of this act: *And provided further*, That nothing contained in this act shall operate to increase the authorized number of commissioned officers or warrant officers of the Regular Army, nor to decrease the number of warrant officers authorized by law."

This proposed legislation has been submitted to the Director of the Bureau of the Budget, as required by Circular No. 49 of that bureau, who advises that it is not in conflict with the financial program of the President.

I have designated Capt. M. B. Halsey, Infantry, to represent the department in case your committee should desire to have a hearing on this proposed legislation.

Sincerely yours,

JOHN W. WEEKS, *Secretary of War.*



